



Sven Thofelt, President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et de Biathlon

“First of all, I should like to point out that our union and the biathlonists firmly believe that our Austrian friends will arrange the Olympic competitions to perfection from every point of view. We know them and their capability from the experiences gained at the 1964 Winter Games, the 1958 and 1963 world biathlon championships in Saalfelden and Seefeld, and finally the important international competition at Seefeld in February 1975. We know that order, discipline and fair play will rule the Games and result in a proper and honest classification of the competitors. We know that television, radio and the press will work under fine conditions and thus be able to give millions, not to

say milliards, of people excellent and thrilling reports from the friendly competitions, the roaring crowds and the beautiful surroundings—to the benefit of the Olympic and world sports movement.

Concerning especially the biathlon events, we hope that we will have a large participation even if some countries perhaps will not send their teams as they believe they have no biathletes of Olympic caliber and thus no chances.

One thing is however certain. The quality of the biathlonists will be tremendous and higher than ever before. The competitions will be exciting and most spectacular. Shall we hazard a guess that the Finns and the Russians will be able to defend their top positions at the last world championships? It is not at all sure. There are Germans (FRG and GDR), Norwegians, Poles, Italians and many others who have the possibility of dispatching them into lower places.

At any rate, we will have a really beautiful, exciting top-class sports festival—which in its turn will do much good for the future life of our beloved sport.”

S. T.
22th December, 1975

Site of events: Seefeld

Dates

20 km.: 6th February at 8.30 h.

Relay: 13th February at 10.00 h.